

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 05198 101723Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /055 W
-----029873 112249Z /12

R 101541Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7943
USICA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 05198

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, GE, US
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL'S VIEW OF VINOCUR'S GDR COVERAGE

REFS: (A) BERLIN 4926, (B) STATE 194897, (C) STATE 200271

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL LUNCH AUGUST 9 FOR NEW GDR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE GRUNERT, USA AFFAIRS CHIEF DR. GEYER VOLUNTEERED CRITICISM OF NEW YORK TIMES APPROACH TO GDR AS DEMONSTRATED IN BONN BUREAU CHIEF VINOCUR'S CURRENT SERIES OF ARTICLES. GEYER SAID VINOCUR'S ATTITUDE CONFIRMED WHAT GDR HAS LONG SUSPECTED, NAMELY THAT NEGATIVE US REPORTING ON GDR REFLECTS HIGH-LEVEL DECISION IN USG. PAO DISPUTED THIS VIEW, SAID IT INDICATED TOTALLY FALSE UNDERSTANDING OF NATURE OF US PRESS AND ITS COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FROM US POLICY, AND THAT IN FACT NEGLIGENT TREATMENT BY GDR'S HAUS FUR JOURNALISTISCHE DIENSTLEISTUNGEN (HJD) OF VINOCUR AND OTHER US CORRESPONDENTS ITSELF CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO PREJUDICING US CORRESPONDENTS AGAINST GDR.

2. GEYER RESPONDED THAT GDR HJD'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR VINOCUR WERE RESULT OF HIGH-LEVEL GDR DECISION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 05198 101723Z

DICTATED BY TWO FACTORS: FIRST, ADVERSE RECOMMENDATION OF GDR EMBASSY IN BONN WHICH REGARDED VINOCUR AS NEGATIVE IN HIS ATTITUDES TOWARD GDR, AND SECOND, THE GDR VIEW THAT IT WAS IMPROPER THAT NYT MAGAZINE EDITOR ED KLEIN AND WIFE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN VINOCUR'S ASSIGNMENT SINCE THEY WERE TRAVELING NOT AS WORKING JOURNALISTS BUT AS TOURISTS. PAO REPLIED THAT GDR WAS MAKING SERIOUS

MISTAKE IN MISTREATING REPRESENTATIVES OF US PRESS, ESPECIALLY OF NYT, MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN US, AND THAT GDR IMAGE IN USA COULD NOT HOPE TO IMPROVE UNLESS GDR POLICY TOWARDS VISITING US JOURNALISTS WAS REVISED.

3. GEYER SAID THAT AT THIS STAGE THIS WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AND IDENTIFIED GDR POSITION AS CONSEQUENCE OF QUARTER CENTURY OF MISTRUST PRIOR TO RECOGNITION. "WE HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER IN ONLY FOUR YEARS TIME AND WE STILL HAVE THESE SUSPICIONS," GEYER SAID, "THE SAME KIND OF SUSPICIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN YOU AND THE SOVIET UNION AFTER FORTY YEARS. WE NEED MORE TIME." MEANWHILE, HE ADDED, JOURNALISTS SUCH AS VINOCUR NEED NOT COME TO THE GDR TO WRITE THE KIND OF STORIES HE IS PRODUCING BECAUSE "THEY CAN JUST AS WELL SIT IN BONN AND WRITE WHAT THEY THINK IS GOING ON HERE."

4. COMMENT: GEYER RAISED THE NYT ARTICLES IN THREE SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH PAO DURING THE LUNCH REFLECTING HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH THE GENERAL QUESTION OF NEGATIVE REPORTING ABOUT THE GDR. NEVERTHELESS, HE SEEMED ADAMANT WHEN CONFRONTED WITH COUNTER-ARGUMENTS THAT THE GDR WAS HELPING CONTRIBUTE TO ITS OWN NEGATIVE IMAGE, EVEN THOUGH HE AGREED IT COULD NOT AFFORD TO DO SO FOR LONG. IN VIEW OF GEYER'S STATEMENTS EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREFUL HANDLING OF US PRESS IF PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 05198 101723Z

FOR THE CONDUCT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE GDR IS TO BE IMPROVED. BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAVEL, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN05198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-0730
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780876/aaaacldc.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08b35b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BERLIN 4926, 78 STATE 194897, 78 STATE 200271
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1773010
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MFA OFFICIAL'S VIEW OF VINOCUR'S GDR COVERAGE
TAGS: SOPN, GC, US, (VINOCUR, JOHN)
To: STATE ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08b35b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014